

—THE—

## Suwannee Democrat

LIVE OAK PUBLISHING COMPANY  
Publishers.Published every Friday at  
No. 122 Center St., Live Oak, Fla.Subscription Price:  
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

Telephone 34

Entered at the Live Oak Postoffice as  
second-class matter.

Twelve men of the requisite degree of ignorance have at last been discovered and agreed upon to try the Cooper in Nashville, Tenn., for the murder of ex-Senator Carmack and the evidence is now being introduced.

Speaking of lady editors in Florida, the name of Miss Hattie Carpenter, of Miami, must be added to the list. Miss Carpenter has recently purchased the Florida School Exponent and will hereafter edit that well-known publication. She is said to have the culture and talent to do the work well.

The rigidity of our morals and the perpendicularity of our conduct make us truly thankful that we escaped the sinful mazes and worldly devices of the State Fair at Tampa by successfully resisting the temptation to be present. The peril we so ably dodged is fore-shadowed in brief but graphic style in the following from the Fort Myers News:

"There is going to be a horse race or something of the sort in Tampa during the Fair."

The always enterprising Tampa Tribune is doing a work of large usefulness to its section in its mammoth special editions showing the resources of the various counties of South Florida. Last Sunday it gave Manatee county such a write-up as it never got before, and that edition properly distributed will be sure to bring people and capital both to that county to aid in its development. The same issue of the Tribune also went into full and interesting details of the State Fair and gave the reader an adequate idea of that big show. There seems to be no limit to the newspaper enterprise of Editor Storvall.

Our neighboring county of Columbia must be reckoned among the peculiarly fortunate and highly favored spots of the South. The Lake City Index says: "Columbia county has no colored problem. It has too many industrious, law-abiding negro farmers, anxious to do right, and doing it, to allow the tougher element to get any headway." That is a pleasant paragraph to aid in circulating, and would that we might truthfully print such news from every county in Florida and the South. The hard-working, law-abiding negro farmer is the chief hope of his race in this country. Honest industry will no more mix with crime than it will with idleness, and this is peculiarly true of the industry that cultivates the soil with an owner's interest in the resulting crop.

The Pensacola Record comes to the front with a very emphatic opinion on the merits of the celebrated Wailes-Beard claim, and has this to say:

"If the legislators of Florida, who are to meet in Tallahassee in April, have a desire to do right, to right a wrong done and lift a load of disgrace from the people of this State, they will take up the Wailes-Beard claim and see that those men get what is due them from the State of Florida. It is a shame and a disgrace that this commonwealth should longer remain under the stigma of refusing to pay its just and honest debts."

The legislature several years ago appropriated \$25,000 in settlement of this claim, but it was refused by the claimant whose demand is for considerably more than \$100,000, and there the matter, with that snug little fortune would make so many of us happy touched in the treasury. It is that no question of morals or finally settled until it is settled but this hardly applies to transactions, which many of us have been compelled to accept or "get left" entirely. The action of the Wailes-Beard claim, and other legislative matters in a different matter, but it seems a full amount of the money it will ever be

## THE FAILURE OF LAW.

The Democrat reproduces in this issue a leading article from the Florida Times-Union entitled, "Laws to Protect Criminals," which deserves a wide and thoughtful reading. What the Times-Union so plainly says in that article a large and increasing number of people are thinking and thinking very strongly, and while the reform urged by our contemporary is probably a long way off, it must come sooner or later if civilization is to be preserved in this country.

Our machinery of criminal justice, in its almost habitual inefficiency in the more serious cases of violation of law, has become a by-word and a reproach, a mockery and a scandal, and like poison creeping through the veins of organized society, contemptuous indifference for our weak system of criminal procedure is taking possession of all classes with disastrous results to the cause of law and order everywhere.

Petty differences are arbitrated by the knife and pistol; shocking murders result from trivial disputes that would not justify a fisticuff; mobs which once went to their deadly work in fear of the law, masked and under cover of night, now gather at the bidding of some brainless hoodlum yelling "lynch him!" and in the most conspicuous spots, in broad day, and with an approving audience assembled to witness the performance, commit murder with the rope or faggot, despising the law as heartily as they violate it.

And as the weak structure of our constitutional and statutory system to protect society is thus collapsing visibly and criminals, except of the lower and meaner class who have neither money nor influential friends, are constantly escaping through the loose meshes of the law, morals, both public and private, by a natural and inevitable sequence are everywhere deteriorating. The old standards of honor are covertly despised when not openly derided. Grafting in official life is all right provided you don't get caught. "Knocking down" on their employers is a favorite game, an evidence of superior smartness and no longer considered dishonest or disreputable among the increasing numbers of moral degenerates. Duty and religion are becoming obsolete and old-fashioned considered as vital factors in life. Law in the home in the relation of parent and child, rivals in laxness the administration of law in the court-house, and every moral and spiritual interest of the nation is sick and suffering because the fountain has been corrupted at its source and that which differentiates the civilized man from the savage—the written law of the land—has lost its stern virility because of its weak enforcement.

Of our present system of criminal law the Times-Union says: "It was designed to meet conditions that passed away centuries ago, and yet it is clung to as the sacred palladium of our liberties. It is now nothing but a shield for crime. It places every conceivable obstacle in the way of the punishment of crime and if punishment ever comes at all—and generally it does not—it comes after months or years of waiting."

Strong language that, but who that has watched our courts and seen the smiling procession of the "acquitted" who were notoriously guilty, pass through their portals as vindicated citizens, can say that it is too strong? But when the same paper goes on to say that the juries are not to blame and the fault is exclusively in the system, we beg to dissent. It is perfectly notorious that the juries are to blame, and the juries alone, in a very large number of instances in which justice miscarries and the guilty are acquitted, and any reformation of our criminal laws which does not make a radical change in our jury system will be a failure.

To remedy this great evil of the maladministration of the criminal law the Times-Union insists on the "complete obliteration of our present system and the adoption of one that seeks to ascertain the truth rather than to let ninety and nine guilty men escape." No moral spasm ever swept over this country yet strong enough to work such a result as that, but it is surely practicable to so change existing statutes, and the State constitution itself, if necessary, that a higher grade of jury service may be available and new trials and reversals will not be granted on any technical or other grounds that have not operated to deprive the defendant of substantial justice.

Editor Hetherington, of the Lakeland News, was plunged to his eyeballs in the strenuous life last week and had two big assignments to cover—Bryan and a lynching bee. He did

the work well in both cases, but if he was in a state of collapse when he got through we don't blame him. His write-up of that hideous episode in which a negro was drowned with oil preparatory to burning at the stake and his subsequent release when proved innocent of criminal assault on a young school girl, was a fine piece of work. How he felt about the awful experience the people of Lakeland went through is well expressed in this paragraph:

"If there is anything more horrible in hell than an excited mob, giving free rein to its angry passions, we do not blame Bob Ingersoll for trying to make people believe there is no such place."

And here's another paragraph from the same source on the same subject that is worthy of the head and heart of a "sure enough" man:

"Some people consider it a 'disgrace to the town' that troops were called in to preserve order. We consider that it would have been a greater disgrace if a mob had been permitted to put to cruel death a human being that every one now knows is innocent."

The Tampa Tribune comes back with much force and vigor, but in excellent temper, at the Democrat for intimating that the State Fair in Tampa was more of a sectional than a State exhibit because of its location so far down the peninsula. The Tribune makes a strong argument on its side of the question and we reproduce it in this issue. Barring Columbia county and the admirable and successful work of Colonel Thomas J. Appleyard in bringing its resources to the front, we had supposed nearly all of Middle Florida and quite all of West Florida to be without exhibits at the State Fair. We are glad to learn from the Tribune that we were mistaken on this point and that "exhibits from every section of Florida are now to be seen at the State Fair." Tampa has no serious rival for the location of the Fair, and so far as the city itself is concerned it could not be improved on in Florida as the immediate sponsor for the enterprise. Doubtless it will stay right there and we have no objection, but for an editor short of a pass it's a long, sandy walk between Live Oak and Tampa.

The Gainesville Sun has a subscriber, W. S. Jackson, of Lakeview, in Alachua county, who walked into the Sun office the other day and renewed his subscription for the twenty-second consecutive year. There's our notion of an ideal citizen. A man who will keep his subscription paid up for twenty-two consecutive years to his county paper and read it regularly, had all the elements of a good citizen in him at the start, and the educative influence of such a paper as the Sun through all those years could not fail to confirm him in the right in whatever affected his qualities as a member of the community and make him at all times an exemplar and advocate of law and order, education and industry. Men in good standing on the subscription books of their county paper may always as a rule be classed as "desirable citizens."

The recent action of the board of commissioners of State institutions in providing that after April 1st there shall be appointed for the Insane Hospital at Chattahoochee a visiting staff of not more than seven reputable Florida physicians was an excellent thing to do and is another safeguard thrown around the poor, stricken creatures shut off from the world and with no voice to be raised in their own behalf. These physicians will be specialists and they will visit the Hospital from time to time to inspect conditions, examine the patients, make suggestions and in various ways co-operate with the resident physicians for the betterment of the unfortunates there. These visiting physicians will serve without pay, but their traveling expenses and board while at the hospital will be paid by the State.

## PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL.

Live Oak, Fla., Feb. 11, 1909.

City council met pursuant to adjournment. Present J. E. Wood, president of council pro tem. and aldermen T. S. Anderson, J. M. Barclay and C. W. Rogers.

Ordinance No. 77 introduced by T. S. Anderson, a member of the city council, was put upon its first reading by sections. By vote of council it passed its first reading. By two-third vote of council the rules were now waived and said ordinance was put upon its second readings by sections. By vote of council it passed its second reading. Said ordinance was now placed upon its third reading and final passage, being read by sections. Upon call of roll the following vote was recorded:

BANK  
OFFICERS

## THE OFFICERS OF THIS BANK

by resolution and by-laws are not permitted to borrow any money from this Bank. This should appeal to the Depositor who desires a safe place to deposit his savings. We pay Four Per Cent on savings deposits.

THE FIRST  
NATIONAL BANK  
OF LIVE OAK

CARY A. HARDEE, President

S. B. CONNER, Cashier

W. J. HILLMAN,  
THOS. DOWLING, Vice-Presidents

Ayes—J. E. Wood, T. S. Anderson, J. M. Barclay and C. W. Rogers.

Nays—None.

Said ordinance No. 77. An ordinance entitled an ordinance to authorize and regulate the holding of political primary elections in the city of Live Oak, Florida, was now declared regularly passed, and ordered certified to the mayor for his approval.

The following parties (J. B. Barton & Co., Worth Stephens Co., and Knight Furniture Co.), submitted bids to the council for furnishings for the city hall.

The council not having time to fully consider said bids, ordered an adjournment till February 12th, 1909, at 7:30 p. m.

J. E. WOOD, Pres. pro tem.

Attest:

S. P. MAYS, City Clerk.

Live Oak, Fla., Feb. 12, 1909.

The city council met pursuant to adjournment. Present: J. E. Wood, president of council pro tem., and aldermen, J. M. Barclay, C. W. Rogers, and T. S. Anderson.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the council.

Resolved, That the board of bond trustees be requested to negotiate sale of five thousand dollars, fire department bonds, and two thousand dollars of the street paving bonds—as the same in the opinion of the council is needed for such purposes.

J. E. WOOD,

Pres. pro tem. city council.

S. P. MAYS, city clerk.

By vote of council the following contracts were awarded for furnishings for the city hall.

To J. B. Barton & Co.	
For 229 opera chair at \$1.90.....	\$435 10
" 3 roller top desks at \$3.40.....	160 20
" 1 flat top desk.....	24 28
" 2 settees, 7 feet each at \$5.00.....	10 00
" 5 R. & T. chairs at 6.00.....	30 00
" 60 office chairs at 4.35.....	261 00
	\$920 58

To Wilson & Thompson.  
For 2 stage tables 12x18 in. \$10.40

" 2 Gun filing cases at \$1.50 .. 3.00

To Knight Furniture Co.  
For 2 tables 42x56 at \$21.00 .. 84.00

All the above goods to conform to specifications as submitted in bids for same.

There being no further business motion council adjourned.

J. E. WOOD,

Pres. pro tem. council.

Attest:—S. P. MAYS, city clerk.

The Earnest Workers Entertained by Mrs. F. E. Thompson.

The Earnest Workers of the R. & B. church met with Mrs. F. E. Thompson at her lovely home on Tuesday afternoon, February 16th.

We had quite a large attendance, several visitors being present.

Although our society is young to have already accomplished something in the way of raising funds to purchase a pipe organ for our church. When we meet we discuss ways and means to which we may add to our treasury. At each weekly meeting we do hand work and sewing, the proceeds of which go towards our organ fund. Personal work strictly prohibited. After an hour of work our business is in usual pleasing manner served us with dainty refreshments.

This meeting was one of the most pleasant spent in some time.

The next meeting of the society will be with Mrs. S. B. Conner, at her home on Ohio avenue on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

MRS. C. T. McDANIEL,

Reporter.

All who are addicted to the alcohol or drug habit, can save time and money by consulting me. All correspondence strictly confidential. Address P. O. Box 123, Live Oak, Fla.

ROYAL  
BAKING POWDER

The most highly refined and healthful of baking powders. Its constant use in almost every American household, its sales all over the world, attest its wonderful popularity and usefulness.